

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are presently pending in the application.

The Office Action sets forth a restriction to one of the following inventions as required under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-21, drawn to an apparatus for cutting financial cards, classified in class 83, subclass 401.
- II. Claims 22-31, drawn to a method for cutting financial cards, classified in class 83, subclass 13.

Applicants hereby affirm the provisional verbal election of March 1, 2005 to elect Species II, which corresponds to claims 22-31.

The Office Action also sets forth a further restriction within Species II to one of the following species as required under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- A. Species in claim 25
- B. Species in claim 27
- C. Species in claim 28

Applicants select Group A, without traverse. This species includes claims 22-26 and 29-31. However, Applicants note that claim 22 is generic to claims 22-31.

Application No. 10/669,581

Response to Restriction Requirement dated April 11, 2005

In Reply to Office Action dated March 11, 2005

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Any other fee required by this document, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____



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